



Oncology Services

Post Positron Emissions Tomography (PET) Procedure Instructions

Your physician will contact you in a few days to discuss the results of your PET scan. If you experience any unusual side effects following your PET scan, please contact your physician immediately.

As part of the PET scan, you were injected with a radioactive substance known as Fluorine-18. The Fluorine-18 may remain in your body for approximately 12 hours after your scan and will continue to emit small levels of radiation. In order to reduce and limit the amount of radiation exposure to both you and those around you, **we advise that you take the following steps for the next 12 hours:**

1. Avoid close physical contact with family and friends, especially infants and children since they are more sensitive to radiation exposure. Ten feet or more is sufficient.
2. Drink plenty of fluids, and try to urinate as often as you can. This will help pass the Fluorine-18 from your body and reduce your radiation exposure.
3. When using the bathroom, make sure you flush the toilet twice and thoroughly clean any spillage with a tissue. Flush the tissue down the toilet immediately.
4. If you breast-feed your infant child, you should wait 34 hours after your PET scan before breast-feeding or expressing your breast milk for use.
5. Since you had an injection today, the area where it occurred may become red, hot, or swollen. If it does, please contact your physician.

If you follow these steps, you will minimize the radiation exposure to yourself and others to levels far below the required federal and state safety standards. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask a staff member or call the doctor that ordered this test for you.

If you have any questions, please contact the Oncology Coordinator at North Fulton Hospital at 770-751-2930.